Amendments to the Specification:

Please note that all references to paragraph numbers in the specification refer to the paragraphs as numbered when the patent application was published by the USPTO (Patent Application Publication 20050113955 published on May 26, 2005). The original application-as-filed numbered paragraphs in a different manner.

NB 6/5/07 Please delete paragraph [0005] ~~[0007]~~ which begins "Understanding the Fundamentals of Kanban and Conwip Pull Systems Using Simulation."

NB 6/5/07 Please delete paragraphs [0012] ~~[0014]~~ through [0020] ~~[0037]~~ which begin "An object of this invention is to provide a system ..." and end "... the product lot is placed on a queue of one of the first following pieces of manufacturing equipment."

NB 6/5/07 Please replace paragraph [0038] ~~[0068]~~ with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] The manufacturing execution systems **20a, . . . , 20n** maintain a manufacturing information database as shown in Fig. 3, and provide the appropriate product lot status and criticality factor to the dispatch system **35**. The manufacturing information database **200** illustrates the routing **205** for each product lot as it progresses through the pieces of equipment of each of the manufacturing stages **15a, 15b, . . . , 15n** or **25a, 25b, . . . , 25n**. The stage number is the designator for each manufacturing stage **15a, 15b, . . . , 15n** or **25a, 25b, . . . , 25n** through which a given product lot is to progress. In the illustration shown, the product lot is in one of the pieces of equipment of the manufacturing stage **210** designated *100*. The database **200** shows the dispatch view **215** and the lot view **220**. The dispatch view **215** exemplifies the lot dispatcher view where current tool (*200*) is the piece or group of pieces of manufacturing equipment that is to receive the product lot or lots upon completion. The downstream tools are the following and next following pieces